

# SCENE

THE GUARDIAN GUIDE TO BAY AREA NIGHTLIFE AND GLAMOUR  
SPRING 2009 • NUMBER 8



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THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN



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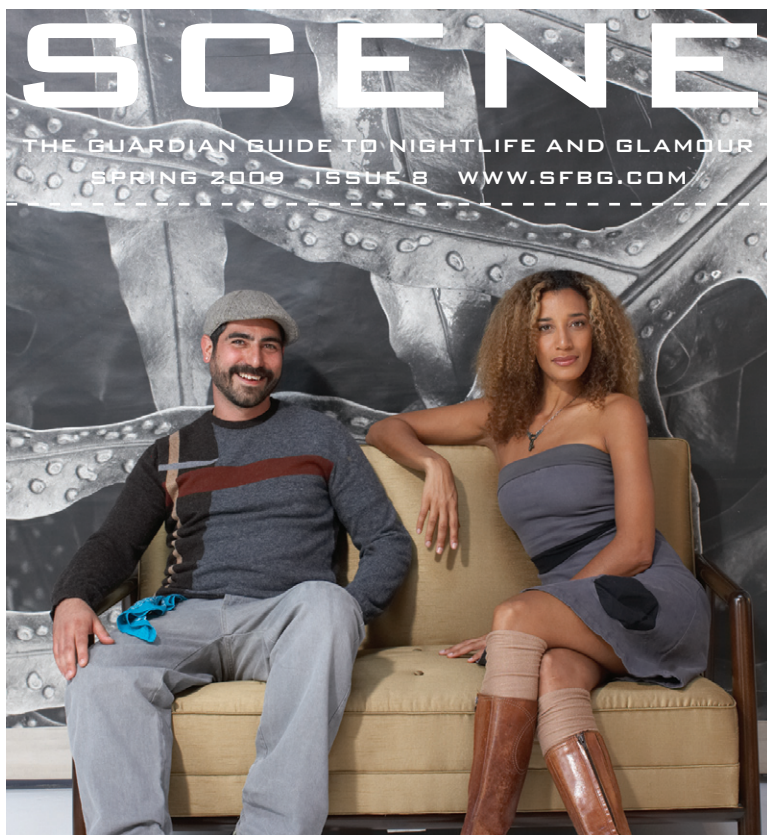


PHOTO OF MARKE B. AND MIRISSA NEFF BY JEFFERY CROSS

# SPRING FEVER

Hey, winter wallflowers -- time to bust out all over. This season's edition of Scene brings you spin the bottle, horny hip-hoppers, ladies on the downlow, a brighter-days flashback, too-hot parties, and more. Roll me some clover, shine up your club shoes, and let's get hoppin'.

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ON THE COVER:  
**TWO RENEGADE COPS**  
 TV CRIME FIGHTERS  
 DESIGN BY BRANDON HIRZEL; BEMO.TV  
 PHOTOS BY DAVID MYRICK; DAVIDMYRICK.COM

Kicked off the force for “doing their jobs too good” -- or maybe just annoying their chief too much - Steel Strongstein and Brick Rockson have gone renegade to bust up a nefarious sex ring, learn the secrets of kung fu from a bitchy transistor radio, confront their future selves on the moon, smoke their way through a wacky spirit journey into their pasts, eat a bowl of scorpions, and confront the evil-yet-beautiful Queen of Diamonds and her pint-sized crew of death-dealing warriors. All while looking fantastic, of course.

That’s the twisted story behind “Two Renegade Cops,” a batch of eye-poppingly art directed and edited shorts currently playing on FuelTV as a part of the Stupidface sketch comedy show. This hilarious mashup of bad ‘70s B-movies and postmillennial references is the brainchild of local scenesters Dugan O’Neal (Strongstein), Leighton Kelly (Rockson), and Brandon Hirzel (special effects). It’s like Starsky & Hutch, with a little more weed and a lot more weed.

Says Strongstein: “Let me tell you something, Brick Rockson and Steel Strongstein will never rest from fighting crime and making sure justice is upheld. They are on a mission, a search for the meaning of their own existence, especially since they were kicked off the force for doing their jobs -- too good.”

WWW.DUGANONEAL.COM

TEXT: MARKE B.

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### **CRAZIEST BARTENDER** Johnny Motherfuckin' Davis

Benders Bar & Grill, 806 So. Van Ness at 19th St • bendersbar.com

JMFD has appeared on our Best Bartender surveys twice before, each time for "Best Cocktail Invention." His appearance in this category might be more of a testimony to the single-minded tenacity that he brought to reviving this beloved Mission hangout after a devastating fire a few years ago. After employing an intensity and energy usually only seen in schizophrenics, Johnny's efforts have resulted in an increased popularity for the space, partly due to his renewed focus on live music events. Johnny himself explains that "Drunk people love me." That's because water seeks its own level, bro. Congratulations on emerging like a phoenix, rising from the assholes.



### **BARTENDER WITH THE BEST COCKTAIL** Daniel Hyatt, "The Vow of Silence"

The Alembic, 1725 Haight btw Cole/Shrader • alembicbar.com

Daniel has been a fixture in the San Francisco bar scene for years, having overseen cocktail menus at such well-known venues as Winterland and Medjool. His encyclopedic knowledge and sincere appreciation of libations is in full effect at this Haight Street jewel, having curated the entire "New School" selection of the contemporary cocktail menu. Our readers agree that his winning concoction, The Vow of Silence ~ made with Wild Turkey rye whiskey, Benedictine liqueur, Creme de Griotte, and bitters ~ exudes a quiet power as beguiling as its name.



### **SEXIEST MALE BARTENDER** Yuri Lane

Mezzanine, 444 Jessie at Mint • mezzaninesf.com

For the past two years, Yuri has been enchanting the diverse crowds at this extremely popular SoMa nightclub with a bewitching mix of chiseled features and charming modesty (he credits winning this category to the "good lighting" in the venue.) His background includes French, Chinese and Mexican heritages, and he was named after the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin. Try to resist asking him if his pants are from outer space, because his ass looks out of this world. Better to just keep your cool in his orbit, and bask in the warmth of his green bedroom eyes.



### **BEST SHRINK BEHIND THE BAR** Phil Stefani

Truck, 1900 Folsom at 15th St • trucksf.com

Like most good counselors, Phil possesses an aura of warmth, friendliness and understanding when giving comfort to those who seek comfort at this popular space bordering the Mission and SoMa. Even better is his access to the large bottles of booze, a couple shots of which help the troubled to "really open up." When asked why he might have won this category, he sagely observed "After nine years in the bar business, you learn to read people." Some nuggets of truth that he's unearthed include this stunning observation: "Issues are the same everywhere. When it comes to relationships, girls date assholes, and guys date anything." You can almost taste the wisdom.



### **FUNNIEST BARTENDER (AKA The Godfrey\*)** Laura Bellizzi

The Hotel Utah Saloon, 500 4th St at Bryant • thehotelutahsaloon.com

This charming pixie has been affiliated with this legendary SoMa live-music institution since 1988, catering to a lively mix of bike messengers, travelling musicians, working folk and neighborhood fixtures. She seemed flummoxed by winning this award, as she considers herself quite a serious person who likes to discuss topics as dry as life, finance, and sex. (Whoa, cheer up, sister!) In all honesty, spend only a few minutes with this lady and you too will fall for a savvy wit and vivacity that was cultivated during her stint at UIC Irvine, where she majored in theatre. Ask about the time she worked at a gay bar in Oakland called the Rimshot; it's a pip!



### **SEXIEST FEMALE BARTENDER** Chupa Matteson

Benders Bar & Grill, 806 So. Van Ness at 19th St • bendersbar.com

They may have put out the fire at Benders, but they can't stop the heat coming from Chupa, the stunning femi-Mission powerhouse whose pulchritude also mesmerizes the masses at Mission BAR and DNA Lounge. This native of Buffalo, NY suffers no fools, and possesses a confidence and sensuality that can only be described as "delicious." It might also help that this nursing student's margaritas are so strong, they could be trafficked as a Class-A drug. Sorry daddies, but this lovely lusty lioness likes them young and tender; she often demands ID from her prey, and "if they are under 23, it's on!" Good luck boys... try to keep up.



### **CRANKIEST BARTENDER** Carl Kickery

Ha-Ra Club, 875 Geary at Larkin

As with most of the previous winners in this category, Carl is simply... misunderstood. His gruff demeanor was honed by years of overseeing the traffic at this Tenderloin mainstay, which understandably can be challenging. Though he did not grant us an official interview, one could glean copious insights into why he has claimed this title. Take, for instance, the response he grumbled to a group of hipster newbies who made the mistake of proffering a debit card for payment: "Cash only, c'mon guys, I'm just wakin' up." This was uttered at 5pm. When asked if he had any words for the folks who voted for him in this category, his response was deliciously tacit: "Fuck off." We love you, Carl!

**\*NAMED AFTER OUR FIRST BARTENDER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE, THREE-TIME WINNER MEREDITH GODFREY OF THE HORSESHOE TAVERN.**



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# KALRI\$\$IAN COMES ON TO YOUR SISTER

In these trying economic times, does the Bay really need a motor-mouthed, drug-snorting, pussy-obsessed playboy hip-hop collective — one that shouts out Eric Estrada, acid house, and Optimus Prime while bragging about using paper bags for condoms and instructing someone to “juggle balls in your mouth like a circus act”? Well, yes, actually. Hilariously quick-witted San Francisco-based beastly boys Kalri\$\$ian certainly bring the sparkling regression to match the recession — by channeling naughty spirits from rap’s past like Kool Keith, Shock G, and Prince Paul, and literally melting themselves to audio gaga as they “lick Cool Whip off your flatmate.” The bouncy braggadocio of Kalri\$\$ian’s new album, *The Velvet Pocket* (Psychokinetics) and over-the-top flashback image somehow seem perfectly refreshing right now.

Experienced Bay nightlifers will recognize some long-time scenesters among the Kal’s colorful cast. No need to fret over missing all the in-jokes, though — Kalri\$\$ian’s got a million of ‘em, and most involve doing lines off your girlfriends’ ass. Check them out live at the release party for Daly City cool kid Mochipet’s new *Bunnies & Muffins* platter:

**SFBG** *You sure got a lot of people — it’s like you’re a super group or something. Tell me about who’s all involved ...*

**“UNCLE” TONY HIGHRISE (producer)** You’re goddamn right this group is super! I’ll tell you what — I wouldn’t have left Miami unless it was for something really, really super. I came up on the scene in Delaware back in the day. I was a freelance hype man for a while with my cousin Wicked Awesome J, rest his soul. After the accident, I drifted south and started wearing polyester. It just seemed like the thing to do. Polyester was tough in Miami — it’s not that breathable, you know. But I was committed.

**KEYLO VENEZUELA (producer)** We ARE super group. We make fantastic sound music and tell our stories to everybody. The music is the passion that covers the world.

**SMOOTH RICK CHOSEN (vocalist)** I’m an ex-Barbazon School of Modeling student who got hooked on pills and realized he had a gift, in his pants.

**CHACHI HARLEM (vocalist)** I was raised in the slum village of Little Harlem, where I sold my body as a baby boy wonder with a long stroke for fun bags. After 18 years of old lady bing-bong, I ran away on tour with the Oakland Outlaws, a dyke roller derby team. I crotch-buffed my way to the Bay in 2002, and stumbled into Keylo at El Farolito. He was a crack/coco dealer ... perfect, right? And the rest is ... phew ... what was the question again?

**TYRONE SHOELACES (vocalist)** I’ve been pimpin’ based out of the North Beach neighborhood since the third grade. Soliloquies always rolled off my tongue like lady glaze, so I knew early on I should grab the mic. I wanted to start my career real rockstar-like, so I went over to 24th and Mission in my trick-a-copter to get some blow, and I met Keylo ... he introduced me to the rest of the guys. They said I could get on a track if I could deliver some ladies. We were recording within 12 minutes. Mind you, I had no hos in the area at the time; I worked it from scratch.

**FELIX LIVINGLOW (vocalist)** I was found on the steps of Bow Church in East London.

**BERNIE “THE TOUCH” GOLDSTEIN (accountant)** Felix is rather guarded about his upbringing, but rumors are he went on the run after getting caught spying on Prime Minister Tony Blair’s wife in the shower while masquerading as a milkman. I can only tell you I met him on a gig Tyrone put together — he was the muscle, I was the brains and charisma.

**SFBG** *Who came up with your dope name, ha.*

**KEYLO** I came to Uncle Tony and ask for ideas on how to make a story-vocal super music fantastic group. We lose our focus for our regular big band exotica in Miami and move to California to record with our friend Chachi Harlem and his band. I call the caravan RV motor van we take to California as “KALRI\$\$IAN” ... after a dream I take about money and Jesus.

**BERNIE** I think it was me who coined the name, while eBaying some assets I collected from someone who owed me a lot of money. I haven’t forgotten you, Timmy Jacobs!

**CHACHI** All I remember is that I woke up in the Green Door Room at the Mitchell Brothers, where Keylo introduced me to Tyrone and Felix. They worked a hot dog stand and did a sideshow double-dutch act with four strippers and the longest anal beads you can imagine. Keylo said to me, “These dudes are crazy!” I said, “No, they’re KALRI\$\$IAN.”

**UNCLE TONY** I was the one who thought of the name KALRI\$\$IAN. I was a pretty big *Star Trek* fan when I was a kid.

**SFBG** *What can we expect from a KALRI\$\$IAN live show?*

**BERNIE** Expect to be impressed by these boys. Chachi has more steps than a Mexican pyramid. Felix has the angelic voice of a deep-throating choirboy. Keylo ... his hypnotic eyes will look right through you. Rick’s got more horsepower in his pants than a ’73 Skylark. Tyrone’s got lines like a fat lady’s ass. And Uncle Tony ... well, he’s just Uncle Tony. Not to mention the ladies ... oh, the ladies: Kitty L’Amour, Holly Blow Lighty, Ladymasters ...

**TYRONE** Imagine if Gallager, GWAR, Slick Rick, Jim Morrison, and Sammy Davis Jr. had a filthy sex dream at the same time. But, like, no dudes touched other dudes and Tony Bennett was rapping, but like real good. I’ve also heard “2 Live Crew meets Beastie Boys with just a hint of Weird Al.” Expect tight choreography, well-dressed men, scantily clad women, and on-stage drug and alcohol abuse.

**UNCLE TONY** It’s a lot to take in. You see a lot of Rick’s goddamn cock, that’s for sure.

**SFBG** *Tell me a dirty Kalri\$\$ian story*

**TYRONE** We did a bunch of coke with your magazine’s photographer and got him tag-teamed by two hotties at the release show.

**KEYLO** During record of “Stick It Inna Broad,” I make Tyrone bring two of his girls and tell Felix and Chachi have real sex with these. I set up two microphones to make proper stereo sound record, and then bring up Baby Uptown to cause crash of fun-time! Haha! Tricky tricky surprise! This is some of the way how we cause emotion of passion in the music to happen.

**FELIX** Are you hitting on me? No? Are you sure? Call me. **SFBG**

**PHOTOGRAPHY: MATTHEW REAMER**

**ART DIRECTION: MIRISSA NEFF**

**INTERVIEW: MARKE B**

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# OUTRAGEOUS COCKTAILS

NOTHING SAYS "RECESSION" LIKE DRINKING TO EXCESS

BY CAMPER ENGLISH

PHOTOS BY MELISSA BARNES

No need to wallow in immanent depressions, barhoppers. There are ungodly delicious drinks being served all over this town, ones sure to distract from any pink slip woes. So buck up, and bottoms up. Let's get *outrageous*.

## LARGE AND IN CHARGE

You know what would help take the edge off your bum? A great big wallow in giant vat of booze. Your first stop should probably be the kitsch-drenched **Tonga Room** (950 Mason, SF. 415-772-5278, [www.fairmont.com](http://www.fairmont.com)) since there's a fair chance it won't be there much longer. This tiki-themed oasis offers a stunning variety of humongous drinks to choose from, and during the extremely affordable happy hour — weekdays, 5 p.m.–7 p.m. — you'll save some serious grass skirt. You can also find plus-sized, shareable tropical cocktails at various prices but still packing punch at **Le Colonial** (20 Cosmo Place, SF. 415-931-3600, [www.lecolonialsf.com](http://www.lecolonialsf.com)), **Bamboo Hut** (479 Broadway, SF. 415-989-8555, [www.maximumproductions.com](http://www.maximumproductions.com)), and Alameda's **Forbidden Island** (1304 Lincoln, Alameda. (510) 749-0332, [www.forbiddenislandalameda.com](http://www.forbiddenislandalameda.com)). The Island on the island opens at 3 p.m. on Sundays, so you can go right after praying for rent at church.

My largest love of the moment, however, is the **Emperor's Cup** at Poleng Lounge (1751 Fulton, SF. 415-441-1751, [www.polenglounge.com](http://www.polenglounge.com)), a 60-ounce cocktail glass that you can have filled with anything on the menu. I only wish they offered grapefruit-sized olives to garnish the mega-martini, because that would be cool. And outrageous!

Trending somewhat smaller but still with an eye on maximum impact: at **Luna Park** (694 Valencia, SF. 415-553-8584, [www.lunaparksf.com](http://www.lunaparksf.com)) you can park your face in front of the "Fancy Flight of Cocktails" — three loaded mini-drinks to share or hoard for yourself. On Whisky Wednesdays at the **Fifth Floor** restaurant (12 Fourth St., SF. 415-348-1555, [www.fifthfloorrestaurant.com](http://www.fifthfloorrestaurant.com)), you can buy a 200 ml (just under seven ounces) flask of whisky. It's like bottle service, but the bottle is really small and personal. At **Taverna Aventine** (582 Washington, SF. 415-981-1500, [www.aventinesf.com](http://www.aventinesf.com)), you can buy whisky or whatever by the bottle. But you don't have to finish it all at once as long as you pay for storing it in a private locker.

## TO THE EXTREME!

Or perhaps you prefer extreme service over self-service. At swank resto **Bix** (56 Gold, SF. 415-433-6300, [www.bixrestaurant.com](http://www.bixrestaurant.com)), they'll shake your drinks tableside. They do it at **Spruce** (3640 Sacramento, SF. 415-931-5100, [www.sprucesf.com](http://www.sprucesf.com)) too — even assembling an Irish coffee before your very place setting, with a cute French press and whipped cream from the pastry chef. Fancy.

For a different sort of service, **Tipsy Pig** (2231 Chestnut, SF. 415-292-2300 [www.thetipsypigsf.com](http://www.thetipsypigsf.com)) has started a mug club. Bring in your own — it's kept at the bar. The mug can be any size; they'll just set the beer price accordingly, making it fair for half-beer drinkers and pony keg chuggernauts. Speaking of frat-friendly antics, at **Miss Pearl's Jamhouse** (1 Broadway, Oakl. 510-444-

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7171, [www.misspearlsjamhouse.com](http://www.misspearlsjamhouse.com)) you can order your alcohol purely in the form of Jell-O shots.

**GET WILD**

Thinking outside the blob, some bartenders are serving all sorts of freaky ingredients in their drinks. The Sazerac at **Nettie's Crab Shack** (2032 Union, SF. 415-409-0300, [nettiescrabshack.com](http://nettiescrabshack.com)) includes freshly muddled fennel fronds instead of absinthe to supply the anise flavor in the drink. In other plant drink news, the celery cocktail at **Aziza** (5800 Geary, SF. 415-752-2222, [aziza-sf.com](http://aziza-sf.com)) includes celery meringue topping. Aziza's has been doing freaky drinks for a long time — I had a rhubarb cocktail there ages ago. Now they serve pineapple jerky and a coconut marshmallow drop in different drinks.

The wildest new cocktail menu in town can be found at **Dosa Fillmore** (1700 Fillmore, SF. 415-441-3672 [dosasf.com](http://dosasf.com)). Its 10 cocktails designed by Jonny Raglin of Absinthe that call for ingredients like mango gastrique, coriander nectar, and chicory bitters. Oh, and yogurt.

Sounding perhaps even less appetizing than yogurt cocktails — which are pretty good, actually — the garlictini at the **Stinking Rose** (325 Columbus, SF. 415-781-7673, [thestinkingrose.com](http://thestinkingrose.com)) has a splash of pickled garlic clove juice in place of olive brine in a standard dirty martini. Adventurous tipplers may also want to the kalimotxo at **Bocadillos** (710 Montgomery, SF. 415-982-2622, [bocasf.com](http://bocasf.com)), a traditional Basque drink made with red wine and Coca-Cola, or enjoy drinking an Argentina-style Fernet with Coke, available at **Pisco Latin Lounge** (1817 Market, SF. 415-874-9951, [piscosf.com](http://piscosf.com)). Then for dessert, pop over to **Etiquette** (1108 Market, SF. 415-869-8779, [www.etiquettelounge.com](http://www.etiquettelounge.com)) for a Strawberry Kiss, rimmed with Hershey's chocolate.

**FLAUNT IT**

With all the drink specials around San Francisco right now, this is a great time to go out cocktailing if you have a job. And if you have job security, this could be a perfect time to rub it in strangers' faces by indulging in extravagances like a \$1,100 bottle of sake at **Ozumo** (161 Steuart, SF. 415-882-1333 [www.ozumo.com](http://www.ozumo.com)) or a \$125 half-pour of bourbon at **Bourbon & Branch** (501 Jones, SF. 415-346-1735, [www.bourbonandbranch.com](http://www.bourbonandbranch.com)). Tastes like short-lived victory!

Some expensive cocktails have been downsized, though. **Cantina** (580 Sutter, SF. 415-398-0195, [www.cantinasf.com](http://www.cantinasf.com)) used to offer a cocktail called the Expense Account that was speaking to a certain audience, and the \$100 Treasure Island at **Epic Roasthouse** (369 Embarcadero, SF. 415-369-9955 [www.epicroast-housesf.com](http://www.epicroast-housesf.com)) is no longer on the menu. Epic's neighbor **Waterbar** (399 Embarcadero, SF. 415-284-9922, [www.waterbarsf.com](http://www.waterbarsf.com)), though, will sell you a Bloody Mary for \$20. Much of that money goes to the garnish of prawns, cherry tomatoes, and hot bacon on a skewer. (You supersize it with extra garnish for an extra \$8.)

One set of pricey cocktails that hasn't gone away is the Million Dollar Cocktail menu at **Harry Denton's Starlight Room** (450 Powell, SF. 415-395-8595, [www.harrydenton.com](http://www.harrydenton.com)), introduced a few years ago. It includes drinks that cost \$90 to \$735 — still a bargain compared to a million! — like the Elegancia, made with Herradura Seleccion Suprema. Tequila is the key ingredient in several other expensive drinks. The Westfield Centre's **Zazil** (845 Market, SF. 415-495-6379, [www.zazilrestaurant.com](http://www.zazilrestaurant.com)) offers a \$150 margarita made with Tres, Cuatro, Cinco tequila. **Tres Agaves** (130 Townsend, SF. 415-227-0500, [www.tresagaves.com](http://www.tresagaves.com)) serves a margarita with Don Julio 1942 — the drink costs \$19.42, so there's some symmetry there. And if you order the 1800 Coleccion tequila at \$350, you get two ounces of tequila and your name up on the big spender board above the bar.

Other cocktails are only outrageous in their names, like this Wicked-themed mouthful: Glenda's Hot Pink Oz-mopolitan at **Grand Café** (501 Geary, SF. 415-292-0101, [www.grandcafe-sf.com](http://www.grandcafe-sf.com)). **Americano Restaurant** (8 Mission, SF. 415-278-3777, [www.americanorestaurant.com](http://www.americanorestaurant.com)) is running its own cultural tie-in, offering the Warhol's Velvet Banana as a drink. You may want to rinse with yogurt after that one.

The **Redwood Room** (495 Geary, SF. 415-929-2372, [www.clifthotel.com](http://www.clifthotel.com)) has a new drink program with the awful-yet-clever name Eggs and Toasts, pairing caviar with champagnes. You have to give 24 hours' advance notice to procure the fresh caviar, plus \$500 to \$1,000 of your cash. Slightly less eye-popping, at \$14, is the Roe Martini at **Roe** (651 Howard, SF. 415-227-0288 [www.roerestaurant.com](http://www.roerestaurant.com)), where caviar-stuffed organic olives are the order of the day. Outrageous! **SFBG**



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**PARTIES**  
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**QUOTE**  
“Bring back the love, build a dance floor family, and take it into the future.”

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[myspace.com/sarahdelush](http://myspace.com/sarahdelush)

**CLUBS**  
THINGS THAT GO BUMP  
(zombie electro)  
Second Fridays at UndergroundSF  
[myspace.com/thingsthatgobumpsf](http://myspace.com/thingsthatgobumpsf)  
SUPER EGO (electro wonderland)  
Third Saturdays at DNA Lounge  
[myspace.com/clubsuperego](http://myspace.com/clubsuperego)

**QUOTE**  
“I <3 electro”

**AVA BERLIN**

MUSE, MODEL, PHOTOGRAPHER

**CLUBS**  
BLOW UP SF (for the sexy people)  
Fridays at Rickshaw Stop  
[blowupsf.com](http://blowupsf.com)  
BLOW UP LA  
Saturdays, secret location  
[blowuplaevents.com](http://blowuplaevents.com)

**QUOTE**  
“I think style is substance, and I’ve always got my camera ready to prove it.”

**KELLY KATE**

PROMOTER  
AND PRO PARTIER

**CLUBS**  
WEST ADDY  
(no bullshit hip-hop)  
Wednesdays at Underground SF  
[myspace.com/westaddy](http://myspace.com/westaddy)

**QUOTE**  
“We all have a hell of a good time and that’s all I really care about.”

**NATE ALWAYS**

PROMOTER AND “IT” BOY  
[iseethroughtheblindfold.com](http://iseethroughtheblindfold.com)

**CLUBS**  
WIG WAM (crazy boots freakiness)  
First and third Mondays  
at Triple Crown  
[myspace.com/suckerpunchy](http://myspace.com/suckerpunchy)

**QUOTE**  
“Gays and straights and clashing music scenes should intermingle until everyone gets laid! My hair is by Ledora Francis.”



# s c e n e

# m a k e r s

Photography: Keeney and Law

Location: Dogpatch

Art Direction: Mirissa Neff

Assistance: Laura Peach



**DJ CHINA G. AND LADY LUZ**  
SEXY PROMOTERS

**CLUB**  
REBEL GIRL  
(for grrrlz who like grrrlz)  
First Saturdays at Rickshaw Stop  
[rebelgirls.sf.com](http://rebelgirls.sf.com)

**QUOTE**  
"Nine years and going strong –  
we'll make you dance all night long."

**JEREMIAH KPOH**  
DJ, PARTY PRODUCER,  
and founder of Maisha Productions  
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(rhythmic music and vibrant art)  
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FUNKTASTIC  
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Last Tuesdays, Elbo Room

**QUOTE**  
"Afrobeat is revolution."

**VIVVYANNE FOREVERMORE/MICA**  
PROMOTER AND PERSONAGE

**CLUBS**  
TIARA SENSATION (messy queen craftiness)  
Mondays at The Stud  
[myspace.com/tiarasensation](http://myspace.com/tiarasensation)  
BEAST(furry goodness)  
[myspace.com/beastparty](http://myspace.com/beastparty)  
HAIR OF THE DOG  
First Sundays at Bloodhound

**QUOTE**  
"Let's get messy before the  
buildings burn and the oceans rise."

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**QUOTE**  
"I'm more about  
helping people out."

**JAMIE JAMS**  
DJ AND PROMOTER

**CLUB**  
DEBASER  
(alternative '90s dance party)  
First Saturdays at The Knockout  
[myspace.com/debaser90s](http://myspace.com/debaser90s)

**QUOTE**  
"My current personal obsession  
is getting people to dance like  
they're at a rock show."



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**RUPA AND THE APRIL FISHES**



**YURI'S NIGHT**



**THE PRESETS**

## Party radar

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### APRIL FOOL'S

It'll be a wild night of global grooves — “no foolin’,” ha, ha, ha — when local luminaries Rupa and the April Fishes, fresh off a European tour, throw their annual April Fool's extravaganza at the Independent. There's a whole multiculturally-involved back story about ancient French traditions and trickster legends, but the point is: exuberant dancing.

April 1, 8 p.m., \$17  
Independent  
628 Divisadero, SF.  
[www.theindependentsf.com](http://www.theindependentsf.com)

### YURI'S NIGHT

The new Cal Academy of Sciences has been mobbed ever since it launched its Thursday evening “Nightlife” shindigs, mixing highbrow concepts with lowdown sounds (and exceptional cocktails!) This one's another cerebellum tingler, as the massive Yuri's Night party, which celebrates the anniversary of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's flight into space, comes to the beautiful space. Cosmos in the planetarium? We think yes.

April 9, 6 p.m.–10 p.m., \$10.  
California Academy of Sciences  
55 Music Concourse Dr., SF.  
[www.calacademy.org/nightlife](http://www.calacademy.org/nightlife)

### THE FUTURE

Get your lasers out — future bass pioneers Flying Lotus, Kode9, and the Bug, insanely talented gents all, will be blowing Mighty's speakers wide open with an overload of fractured dub from inner space and sonic effects that will tap you on the shoulder from behind. It's all part of “The Future,” a party — and an idea!

April 11, 9 p.m., \$15 advance  
Mighty  
119 Utah, SF  
[www.mighty119.com](http://www.mighty119.com)

### THE PRESETS

Did anyone really expect the Australian duo to be the toast of last year's Folsom Street fair? Leather and electro made a perfect mix, aided by furious live drumming and a stage presence that spelled s-e-x-y. Opening will be the latest, and quite worthy, Golden Filter, indie-dance blog darlings who bring an other-worldly polish to their electronic fantasias.

April 16, 9 p.m., \$15 advance  
Mezzanine  
444 Jessie, SF.  
[www.mezzaninesf.com](http://www.mezzaninesf.com)





**BURAKA SOM SISTEMA**



**RONI SIZE**



**LADY SOVEREIGN**

RUPA AND THE APRIL FISHES PHOTO BY LARS HOWLETT  
THE PRESETS PHOTO BY KANE SKENNAR

#### BURAKA SOM SISTEMA

Perhaps proving that it takes a guest spot by MIA to save the world, this group brought the intensely wild style of Angola-via-Portugal's kuduro sound to the hungry ears of the global underground with last year's mega-hit, "Sound or Kuduro." We've yet to see anyone on this side of Africa actually break chairs and flip off roofs to the track like in the video — but there's always April.

April 21, 9 p.m., \$14

Rickshaw Stop

155 Fell, SF.

[www.rickshawstop.com](http://www.rickshawstop.com)

#### RONI SIZE

Whoa, total drum 'n bass flashback time, as one of the original innovators reprints at 103 Harriet with toasty Dynamite MC providing the wicked verbiage, and — what the freak — dub legend Mad professor providing backup. Apparently Size still matters. The Bay's fiery Compression crew opens up.

April 17, 10 p.m., \$15 advance

103 Harriet, SF

[www.sunsetpromotions.net](http://www.sunsetpromotions.net)

#### HOW WEIRD STREET FAIRE

Ten years of fuzzy-costumed fury and fun explode all day at this, the traditional kickoff of the street fair season. Burning Man aesthetic will be in full effect, but the sonic tentacles reach into a surprising number of grab bags, including psy-trance,

dubstep, reggae, progressive house, Moroccan chaabi, and even a little something called "techno." Weird!

May 10, noon–7 p.m., \$10

Second St. and Howard, SF

[www.howweird.org](http://www.howweird.org)

#### LADY SOVEREIGN

Reigning self-proclaimed "white midget" of grime-based hip-hop has had some rough breaks, but she keeps her trainers tied tight and still kicks aggressive lyrical ass, with or without Jay-Z's label support. Whether or not she'll throw down the mic, jump into the crowd, and beat some chavvies black and blue is up in the air — but that's all part of the fun, then, innit?

May 24, 9 p.m., \$10

Rickshaw Stop

155 Fell, SF

[www.rickshawstop.com](http://www.rickshawstop.com)

#### FAKE BLOOD

The mystery man — or mystery men? — of the London electro-rave renaissance tempers the killer siren whoop-whoop and stuttered provocation of viral hits like "Mars" with a surprisingly deep knowledge of underground dance floor grooves from the past three decades, as evidenced on his Internet-acclaimed Essential Mix for the BBC.

June 25, 10 p.m., price tba

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# REDLINE

## SHAKES THE BASS UP

To say that the woofer-rumbling, raga-ripping dubstep sound has exploded on the club scene in the past few years is an understatement almost as low as the genre's freakiest frequencies. Dubstep seems perfect for our hyper-multicultural, urban-nomadic age, blending street rhythms with the most intricate laptop sonic technology available. It's perfect for the Bay, with its shimmering blend of moody menace and artistic bombast, and has duly been embraced by a number of DJs here, many with roots that stretch back to the early days of 2-step, drum 'n bass, and even rave.

DJ Ultraviolet (pictured in red, at left), heads up the fab two-year-old RedLine dubstep collective, and has been bringing her immaculate technique and overflowing energy to the decks in San Francisco since 1997. She was a seminal player in the drum 'n bass and breakbeat scene, as part of the Sleeveless collective with the Femmes Fatales, and was associated with the legendarily raucous Sister DJ crew. As a true vinyl fetishist, she was being booked at the tender age of 19 to play jungle at underground '90s raves and played a part in the Future Breaks FM (miss you!) juggernaut of the early aughts.

Now, along with the wonderfully gifted DJ Kozee, her "second in command," Ultraviolet reps the burgeoning female dubstep explosion, producing tracks and bringing a touch of grimy glamour to the scene with the MakeOut Sessions, RedLine's regular blowout at Matador. The upcoming installment of MakeOut features Matty G of Santa Cruz ([www.myspace.com/mattygbeatz](http://www.myspace.com/mattygbeatz)) pumping tracks from his new album, *Take You Back*.

**SFBG** *Who's all involved in RedLine?*

**ULTRAVIOLET** Kozee and I, who do a lot of the event planning and are working on a big project together; Babylon System ([www.myspace.com/the-babylonsystem](http://www.myspace.com/the-babylonsystem)), a.k.a. Roommate and No Thing, is one of the top production crews in dubstep, currently on tour in Europe; the three DJs of Blackheart ([www.myspace.com/lordsofblackheart](http://www.myspace.com/lordsofblackheart)) from Oakland are our newest addition; DJ Rob Cannon ([www.myspace.com/djrobannon](http://www.myspace.com/djrobannon)), our youngest member; our L.A. residents Emu and Pawn, who are also a part of the SMOG crew down there, and on our business end, Cyn, Bruxxy, and Dymphna.

**SFBG** *Do you think the dubstep sound is reaching a critical mass? Is the scene in danger of getting stale?*

**ULTRAVIOLET** I think that as long as the producers and promoters of this music stay innovative and don't just recycle old ideas, you won't see dubstep losing momentum anytime in the near future. I'm sure at some point it will evolve, like any form of music. Dubstep incorporates so many types of music genres — jungle, techno, house, ragga, glitch, hip-hop, dub, etc. — that it appeals to a wide variety of people who may not have been open to others' forms of dance music. I see it getting a lot bigger, and the DJs and producers that came in at the right time will see themselves playing for bigger audiences.

**SFBG** *Is it lame at this point in nightlife history to ask about the special challenges you face as women in the biz?*

**ULTRAVIOLET** Not at all. Part of why I started RedLine was that I wanted to create a crew where gender didn't matter. As long as you were a good DJ and loved the music, that was it. I really feel like Kozee and I get our bookings because we rock, not because we're the token females of our genre. And I really only notice any sort of gender separation when I travel outside of Cali. Living in the Bay, I guess, I live in a bubble where I feel like everyone is truly open-minded. I think the percentage of women behind the decks is increasing. There are a lot of great dubstep, breaks, and experimental scene females — Mary Anne Hobbs, Shiva, Pandai'a, Ikonika, Fire Lieber — that I think go toe-to-toe with the boys. With women like these as positive role models, we'll see a lot more females coming into our scene soon. **SFBG**

**PHOTOGRAPHY: PAT MAZZERA**

**ART DIRECTION: MIRISSA NEFF**

**INTERVIEW: MARKE B**

**PICTURED: ULTRAVIOLET, KOZEE, ROOMMATE, ROB CANNON, AND BLACKHEART**

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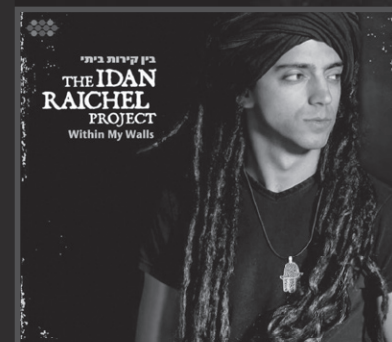
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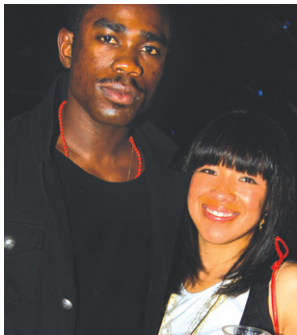


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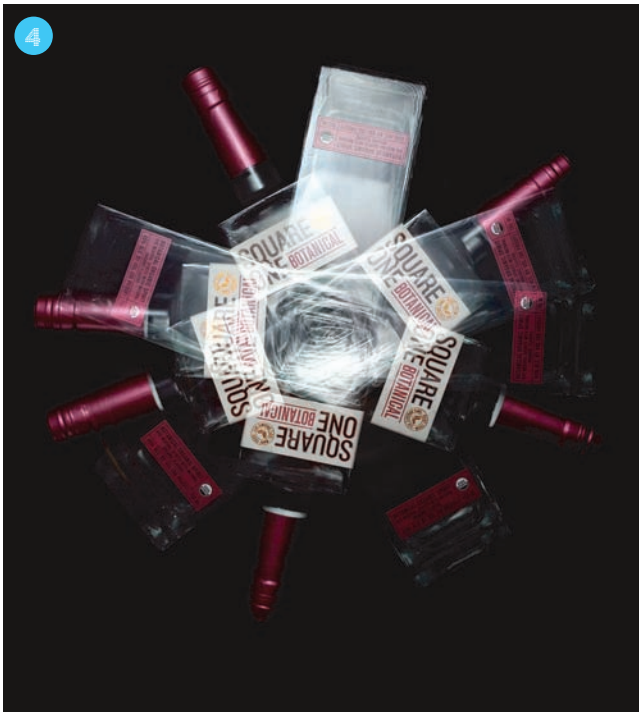
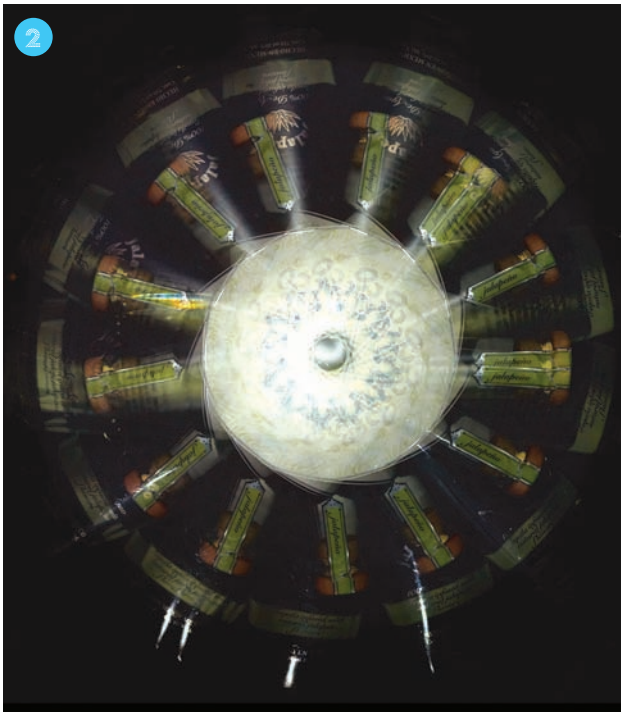
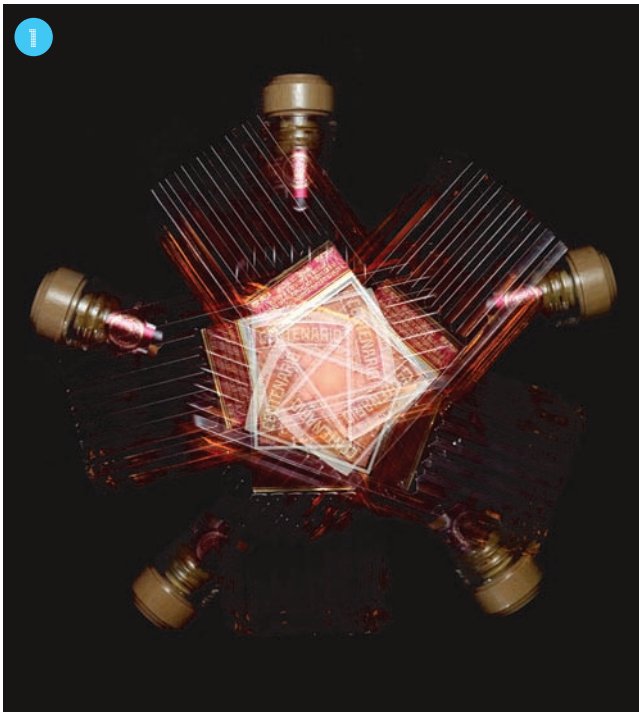
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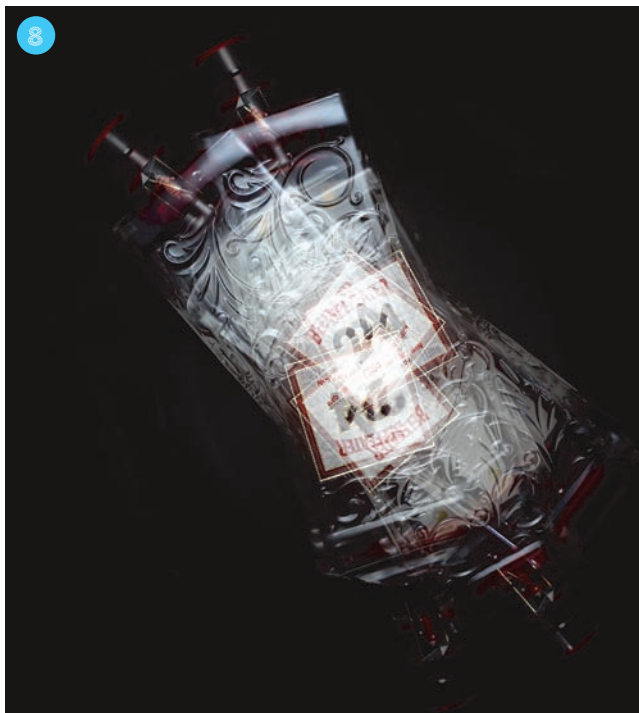
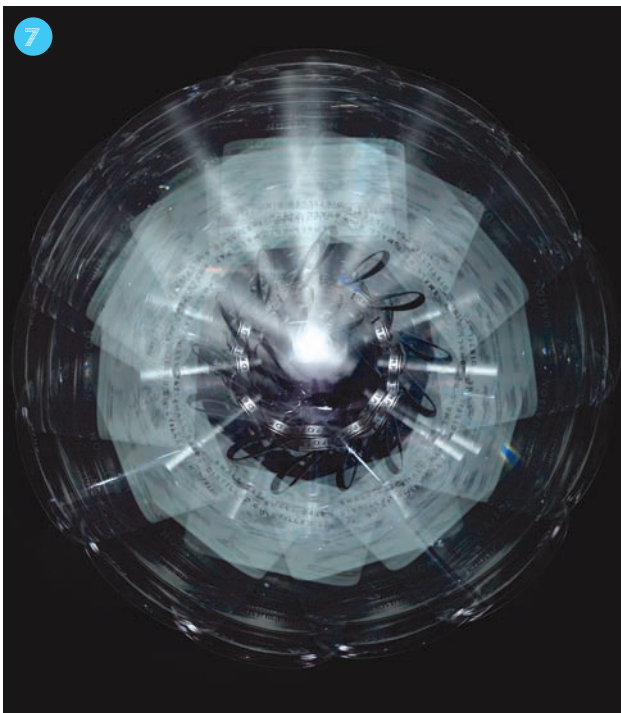
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# NEW TWISTS ON LIQUOR CLASSICS

## BY CAMPER ENGLISH

So many delicious alcohol products are coming onto the market this spring they're going to have to add extra shelves at the liquor store. Each new drink listed below offers a little something special — a new flavor, category, production technique, or twist on a classic.

### 1. ROSANGEL TEQUILA

Most flavored tequilas are based on un-aged blancos, but Rosangel begins life as Gran Centenario's highly awarded reposado. Then it's further rested in ex port casks for two months before being flavored with hibiscus. The result is more subtle than you might expect, with the hibiscus brightening up the tequila and the port adding a long-lasting finish.

[www.rosangel.com](http://www.rosangel.com)

### 2. TANTEO JALAPENO TEQUILA

Though this tequila probably won't be distributed in California until fall, you can find it on the interwebs in the meantime. Tanteo comes in three flavors — a fresh-tasting jalapeño, a surprisingly good powdery chocolate, and a tropical flavor that's my least favorite of the bunch. Each bottle has a little bit of the other flavors as well, so this jalapeño tequila has some underlying chocolate and mango notes.

[www.tanteotequila.com](http://www.tanteotequila.com)

### 3. FIREFLY SWEET TEA VODKA

This flavored vodka is so dangerously drinkable, I have to hide it from myself in the back of the liquor cabinet. Add equal parts vodka and water over ice with a lemon wedge, and you'll hardly know you're not drinking sweet tea, or "sweetened iced tea" as we Northeastern natives know the stuff.

[www.fireflyvodka.com](http://www.fireflyvodka.com)

### 4. SQUARE ONE BOTANICAL ORGANIC SPIRIT

This new product from locally-owned Square One Vodka falls somewhere between a flavored vodka and an herbal spirit-like gin. The flavor is fruity (pear, citrus) and floral (lavender, chamomile), with some herbs and spice (rosemary, coriander) underneath. As this botanical spirit doesn't easily fit into traditional categories, they've released it in a small batch specifically for adventurous bartenders.

[www.squareonevodka.com](http://www.squareonevodka.com)

### 5. OBAN DISTILLER'S EDITION 1993

The salty air in the Scottish harbor town where the Oban distillery is located lends briny flavors to the range of whisky aged there. This limited edition scotch spent its final year in a Montilla fino sherry cask, and the fino funk really comes through to the glass. Fans of musky wine and sake may find this scotch right up their alley.

[www.malts.com](http://www.malts.com)

### 6. CAP ROCK ORGANIC DRY GIN

While most gin starts as a grain-based spirit (corn, wheat, rye), this one's primary base is spirit derived from organic apples sourced near the distillery. It is then infused with fresh and dried flowers and spices, and some citrus juice and peels before distilling. The gin is of the floral and fruity new world variety rather than the bold juniper-forward London style.

[www.peakspirits.com](http://www.peakspirits.com)

### 7. G'VINE NOUAISON

Another brand of non-grain gin is G'Vine, distilled from grapes in the Cognac region of France. The green bottle version, Floraison, is an absolute flower bomb in your mouth, but the gray-bottled Nouaison is more traditional in flavor profile yet still soft and delicious from the grape spirit. Distribution for the brand is changing, and hopefully it will start showing up on local store shelves in the next few months.

[www.g-vine.com](http://www.g-vine.com)

### 8. BEEFEATER 24 GIN

The changes between regular Beefeater and the new Beefeater 24 that launches in the U.S. this April are subtle enough that the product is a slight adjustment rather than a bold new direction. The distillers kept the same botanicals as in the standard product, but added grapefruit peels, green tea, and Japanese sencha tea into the mix. The tannins in the tea add a structured feeling in the mouth and a lovely long finish.

[www.beefeater24.com](http://www.beefeater24.com) **SFBG**

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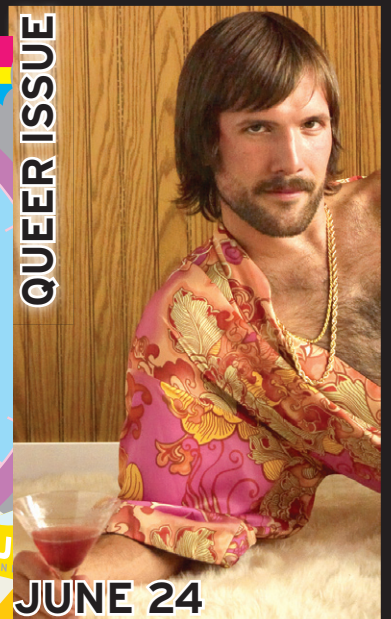
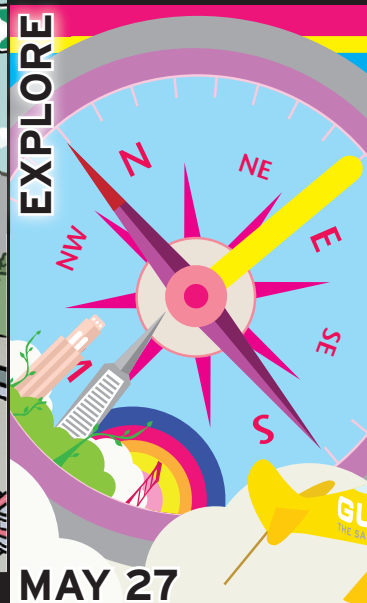
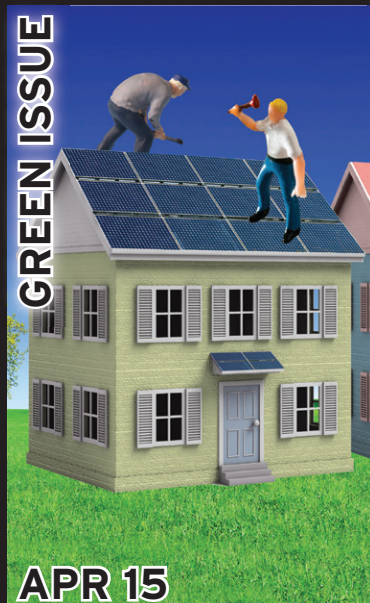
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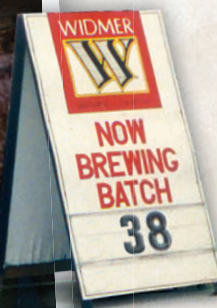


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